

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953, (B) BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE, SOURCE K. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE K, 20, IS A FORMER STUDENT FROM SIEM REAP. HE FLED TO THAILAND IN JANUARY 7, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. VILLAGERS RECEIVED ONE TIN OF RICE PER DAY IN 1975. IN 1976 AND 1977, WE RECEIVED TWO TINS OF RICE (500 GRAMS) FROM JANUARY TO MAY AND ONE TIN (250 GRAMS) PER DAY FROM MAY TO DECEMBER, DURING THE DRY SEASON. THIS WAS "NOT ENOUGH.

3. QTE EACH DAY YOU WORKED FROM 0600-1100, 1300-1700 AND, DURING THE DRY SEASON FROM 1800-2300, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DIG CANALS AND IRRIGATION DITCHES. WHEN WE DID NOT WORK IN THE FIELDS, WE MADE BASKETS OR ROPE. IN 1975-76, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE YOUNG PEOPLE DID NOT GET A SINGLE DAY OFF. STARTING IN 1977, WE GOT ONE DAY OFF EVERY TEN.

5. QTE OCCASIONALLY, ON MY DAY OFF, I WOULD MEET MY GIRL FRIEND. WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SHOW ANY AFFECTION OR ANY SIGNS OF LOVE, OR EVEN THAT WE WERE FRIENDS. WE COULD ONLY TALK ABOUT WORK. IF WE DID ANYTHING ELSE IN 1975

UNTIL ABOUT APRIL, 1977, THE VILLAGE CHIEF WOULD ARREST US, AND SEND US "ANGKA LEU" (TO BE EXECUTED). AFTER THAT, THE SITUATION WAS SLIGHTLY MORE RELAXED. THE VILLAGE CHIEF COULD ARRANGE A MARRIAGE.

6. QTE MY FAMILY WAS SENT TO BATTAMBANG. I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CONTACT THEM NOR TO GO TO VISIT THEM SINCE 1975. THE VILLAGE CHIEF HAD TOLD US THAT "NO CONTACT IS ALLOWED."

7. QTE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. MY VILLAGE HAD ABOUT 95 "OLD" FAMILIES AND 30 "NEW FAMILIES. AN "OLD CAMBODIAN" WAS THE VILLAGE CHIEF. THE PEOPLE WERE TREATED THE SAME AND HAD TO DO THE SAME KIND OF WORK.

8. QTE FOR A MINOR ERROR, SUCH AS BEING LATE FOR WORK, YOU WERE WARNED TWICE AND THE THIRD TIME "SENT TO ANGKA LEU" (EXECUTED). FOR A SERIOUS MISTAKE, SUCH AS TALKING AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME, YOU WERE EXECUTED THE FIRST TIME. IF ANGKA ORDERS YOU TO BUILD A DAM AND SOMEONE SABOTAGES THE PROJECT IN SOME WAY, OR QUESTIONS THE WISDOM OF THE PROJECT, THEN HE WOULD BE "SENT TO ANGKA LEU." I KNEW ONE FELLOW NAMED "YOM" WHO USED TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. EARLY IN 1977, HE WAS "SENT TO ANGKA LEU." GENERALLY THOUGH, THE PEOPLE FEARED THE GOVERNMENT AND WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEAK ABOUT IT. THEY FEARED EXECUTION.

9. QTE EXECUTIONS. I KNOW OF EIGHT FORMER GKR SOLDIERS AND TWO POLICEMEN WHO WERE ARRESTED AT THE END OF 1976 AND "DISAPPEARED." THERE WERE ALSO FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE SAME PERIOD. I KNEW TWO THIR-YEAR STUDENTS WHO WERE "SENT TO ANGKA LEU" IN 1977. I MYSELF STUDIED FOR TEN YEARS, BUT THE KHMER ROUGE DID NOT KNOW THIS. THEY ARE CONTINUING TO SEARCH TO GET RID OF ALL THESE CLASSES OF PEOPLE. IF I HAD NOT FLED TO THAILAND, I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE, SINCE SOMEONE IN THE NEXT VILLAGE TOLD THE KHMER ROUGE I WAS A FORMER STUDENT.

10 QTE I HAD ONE RELATIVE WHO WAS A FORMER GKR, KIM THAI LONG, MY MOTHER'S BROTHER, WHO WAS KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE. A VILLAGER FROM MY UNCLE'S VILLAGE SAW HIS EXECUTION. HE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY POLES. THIS HAPPENED IN APRIL , 77. MY UNCLE WAS A SECOND LIEUTENANT, ABOUT 28 YEARS OLD. HE HAD A WIFE, BUT THE KHMER ROUGE DID NOT HARM HER.

11. QTE HUMAN, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. IN MY VILLAGE, THERE WERE NO HUMAN, CIVIL OR POLITICAL RIGHTS, SINCE THE PEOPLE HAD TO FOLLOW ORDERS. YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO PROPOSE, SUGGEST OR CRITICIZE ANYTHING.

12. QTE IF ANOTHER VILLAGER STOLE YOUR RICE, YOU HAD TO TELL THE VILLAGE CHIEF. AFTER HEARING THIS STORY, THE VILLAGE CHIEF WOULD CALL A MEETING OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE AND DECIDE PUBLICLY WHAT TO DO. THE VILLAGE CHIEF WOULD DESCRIBE WHAT HAD SUPPOSEDLY HAPPENED, THEN ASK THE VILLAGERS WHAT TO DO. BUT IN MY VILLAGE, THERE WAS NO SUCH PROBLEM. PEOPLE WERE TOO FEARFUL OF DEATH TO COMMIT THE SLIGHTEST OFFENSE. END QTE.

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